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of the physical characters of igneous rocks, their mode of occurrence, structure, texture, and composition. In Part II some seventy pages are devoted to mineral descriptions, and in the back of the book are four pages of tables to be used for the determination of the common rock minerals. The usefulness of this part of the work would be greatly increased if it contained a colored plate showing the maximum birefringences of minerals for various thicknesses of plates. It is presumed that the student has a knowledge of optics. Part III is devoted to the classification of igneous rocks, the method being essentially the qualitative system now in use. Part IV devotes about one hundred pages to the distribution of igneous rocks of Great Britain. This part of the work is illustrated by many text figures and is a brief summary of the petrography of the British Isles. The work is well arranged and includes much useful data. The American student of igneous rocks could wish for a rather more comprehensive treatment of differentiation, magmatic stopping, and related subjects; with a brief résumé of the quantitative system of rock classification, the use of which is increasing on this continent.

W. H. E.

The Ephemeral Volcanic Island in the Iwôjima Group. BY T. WAKIMIZU. Publication of the Earthquake Investigation Committee in Foreign Languages, No. 22, Section C, Art. 1. With Plates I-XII. Tôkyô, 1908.

The island appeared February 1, 1905, three nautical miles east of M. Iwôjima. It was three miles in circumference, 480 feet in height and contained about 200 acres in area. The lava was of the olivine-augite-andesite type resembling closely that of Mt. Pipe in Iwôjima. From its geographic position and nature of ejecta it seemed clear that the ephemeral island was a volcano belonging to the same volcanic line as the three principal volcanic islands of the Iwôjima group. On June 16, 1905, the island had almost disappeared. The cause of submergence was attributed to the erosive action of the waves and possibly to depression of the crater rim.

C. J. H.

Formation of Geodes with Remarks on the Silicification of Fossils. BY RAY S. BASSLER. From the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, Vol. XXXV, pp. 133-54, with Plates XVIII-XXIV. Washington, 1908.

The author finds in his study of the formation of geodes in the Keokuk geode beds and in the shales and limestones of the Knobstone division of the